

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 . A therapeutic compound comprising:
  - 2 a drug moiety comprising paclitaxel,
    - 3 at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the
    - 4 polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the
    - 5 polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly
    - 6 bonded to aspartic acid, and
    - 7 the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.
- 1 2 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises  
2 a molecular weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.
- 1 2 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2 about 10 percent to about 60 percent, by weight, of the therapeutic compound.
- 1 2 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2 about 20 percent to about 50 percent, by weight, of the therapeutic compound.
- 1 2 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the drug moiety comprises from  
2 about 20 percent to about 40 percent, of the therapeutic compound.
- 1 2 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein the amino acids can be in L form,  
2 or D form, or a racemic mixture of L and D forms.
- 1 7 . The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein

1           the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
2 by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and

3           the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
4 30,000 daltons.

1       8 .     A method for improving the solubility of a drug moiety comprising the steps of:  
2           covalently conjugating the drug moiety with at least one polypeptide drug carrier  
3           moiety, thereby creating a therapeutic compound, the therapeutic compound comprising:  
4           the drug moiety comprising paclitaxel, and

5           at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the  
6           polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the  
7           polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly  
8           bonded to at least one aspartic acid, and

9           the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.

1       9 .     The method of claim 8, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises a molecular  
2           weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.

1       10 .    The method of claim 8, wherein the water solubility of the therapeutic compound  
2           is greater than the water solubility of the drug moiety.

1       11 .    The method of claim 8, wherein

2           the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
3 by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and

4           the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
5 30,000 daltons.

- 1       12. A method for treating a condition comprising the steps of:  
2              administering a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic compound  
3              comprising:  
4                  a drug moiety comprising paclitaxel, and  
5                  at least one polypeptide drug carrier moiety having 70% by total weight of the  
6              polypeptide drug carrier, glutamic acid, and 30% by total weight by total weight of the  
7              polypeptide drug carrier, aspartic acid, and wherein at least one glutamic acid is directly  
8              bonded to at least one aspartic acid, and  
9                  the drug moiety being covalently linked to the carrier moiety.
- 1       13. The method of claim 12, wherein the drug carrier moiety comprises a molecular  
2              weight in the range of about 20,000 daltons to about 50,000 daltons.
- 1       14. The method of claim 12, wherein the condition is a prostate tumor.
- 1       15. The method of claim 12, wherein  
2              the drug moiety comprises paclitaxel and is about 24 percent to about 30 percent,  
3              by weight, of the therapeutic compound, and  
4              the molecular weight of the therapeutic compound is from about 26,000 to about  
5              30,000 daltons.